more literate children of the old tea-garden workers, are not happly to pluck leaves or to expose themselves in the fields. Now, contrasted with this is that the incentive wage is very low; it is only 10 per cent of the time-rated wage. I would like to know whether the Minister would be happy to take an initiative in this regard so that the incentive wage is increase, the efficient workers are encouraged for plucking more and more leave and this national crop does not get affected or lost. Thank you, Sir.

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया: माननीय सभापति जी, चाय बागान में काम करने वाले कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन निश्चित करने का काम भी राज्य सरकारों को ही करना है और राज्य सरकारें समय-समय पर इसे घोषित करती हैं। हम ने इन-जनरल मान्य बाकी मजदूरों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन घोषित करने का काम किया है और उस संबंध में सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों को सूचित किया है कि वह 40 रुपए से कम नहीं होना चाहिए, उस में महंगाई भत्ता शामिल कर मजदूरों को दिया जाना चाहिए। सर, यह एक्सक्लूजिवली राज्य सरकारों का दायित्व है कि वह अपने प्रदेश के चाय बागानों के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी घोषित करें।

श्री मोहम्मद आज़म खान: सर, बहुत दिनों से ऑर्गनाइज्ड और अन-आर्गनाइज्ड लेबर पालिसी के सिलसिले में सरकार की पालिसी का एलान होता रहता है और मंत्री जी ने पहले भी कई बार कहा है कि खेतों में काम करने वाले, सड़कों पर काम करने वाले, मैदानों में काम करने वाले और इन चाय-बागान में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिए एक....

†[श्री محمد اعظم خاں: سر۔ بہت دنوں سے آرگنائزڈ اور ان آرگنائزڈ لیبر پالیسی کے سلسلے میں سرکار کی پالیسی کا اعلان ہوتا رہتا ہے اور منتری جی نے پہلے کئی بار کہا ہے کہ مختلف میں کام کرنے والے۔ سڑکوں پر کام کرنے والے۔ میدانوں میں کام کرنے والے اور ان چائے باغان میں کام کرنے والے مزدوروں کیلئے ایک ۔۔۔]

†[ ]Transilteration in Arabic Script

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Resource Crunch in Andhra Pradesh

*164. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has pointed out resource cruch to discharge their duties under the Constitution (74th Amendment) for acts like water supply, sanitation etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to assist the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Agreements with Japan

*165. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral relations and global economic situation discussed at Indo-Japan talks on 18th January and 5th February, 1999;

(b) the details of trade agreements finalised; and

(c) the other mutually beneficial economic ties proposed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The sixth round of India-Japan Foreign Secretary Level Talks and the Fourteenth round of Commerce Secretary

Level Trade Talks were held from 17—21 January and on 5th February, 1999 respectively.

The Foreign Secretary Level Talks covered issues pertaining to bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Commerce Secretary level talks discussed issues of commercial and economic importance for development of bilaterial relations viz; review of the macro-economic situation and policies in both the countries, impact of the financial crisis in South-East Asian countries on the Japanese economy and trade and its consequent repercussions on our bilateral trade, current status and scope for increase in Indo-Japanese bilateral trade, apart from discussions on stand of each country on multilateral trade and economic cooperation issues.

No specific Trade Agreements were concluded during these Talks.

Distortion of Census Data

*166. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 30th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reveals census bungling in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to set right the distortion of census data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MENEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 30th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes does not reveal any census bungling.

However, under Annexure 4 of the Report an article written by Shri Sharad Kulkarni is enclosed as miscellaneous papers. This article titled as 'Distortion of Census Data on Scheduled Tribes' states that the increase in tribal population as depicted in 1981 census over 1971 census is due to two reasons viz;

(i) 'Removal of Area Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1996' made the lists (of Scheduled Tribes) applicable to all the areas in the state whereas in 1971 it was restricted to the members of any specific Tribe, only if they were living in the area specified for that tribe.

(ii) Deliberate fraudulent responses given to the census enumerators by non-tribal house-holds.

However, the contents of the article do not reflect any bungling in the census process.

(c) Wide publicity is given during census about various provisions of the Census Act according to which the respodents are required to give correct information and it also binds enumerators to record the information truth-fully.

Data is collected at each census with due care by well-trained anumerators and as per the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as appearing in the 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification)Order 1956' as amended from time to time.

Transfer of ESIC Deposit

*167. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of Rs.100 crore of the ESI Corporation has been transferred to the Union Bank of India; if so, the reasons therefore;

(b) whether the ESIC Board has not recommended this transfer and Government have even then issued orders for the transfer of the deposit; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?